

The Last Kelpie

by

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EXT. MARSH - AFTERNOON

ANATOLIA, a white unicorn, trots over a hill and through the marsh with AMASYA, his mother, NEOCAESAREA, his father and his two sisters SINOPE and TRABZON. Neocaesarea abruptly stops in the marsh, he glances around the area, stares at the nearby swamp in the distance and stomps his hoof.

NEOCAESAREA

It is safe to graze here for a few days.

Amasya moves by Neocaesarea's side and grazes next to him. Anatolia watches his younger sisters play amongst the marsh. He then stares at his parents, grazing next to each other.

Anatolia sighs and slowly moves towards the swamp.

ANATOLIA

I'm going off to explore, I will return later.

EXT. SWAMP - AFTERNOON

Anatolia curiously makes his way through the swamp by jumping on logs and avoiding the dark water below. He sees two bright red birds flying overhead and tries to follow them. He moves deeper into the swamp, the vegetation becoming thicker and darker.

The birds land on an overturned tree on a grass bed, Anatolia slows down and carefully jumps on to the grass bed. He lowers his head and slowly approaches them. The birds chirp and groom each other.

Suddenly MITHRADATES, a kelpie, leaps from the nearby water and catches one of the birds in her mouth as the other flies away. Her and Anatolia's eyes meet. She freezes and Anatolia stares at her, her pine green scaly skin, swamp vine entangled hair, white eyes and sharp teeth. She blinks.

ANATOLIA (CONT'D)

Who are--

She leaps back into the water.

ANATOLIA (CONT'D)

Wait!

Anatolia leaps into the water after her. His legs are suddenly entangled in vines and he is trapped. He kicks and

struggles in the water. The kelpie momentarily breaches the surface and dives down, below Anatolia. She uses her sharp teeth and sets him free.

Anatolia returns to the grass bed, panting. Mithradates remains in the water with only her eyes peering at him.

ANATOLIA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She pauses then slowly rises from the water and moving towards Anatolia. She continues towards him, forcing him backwards.

ANATOLIA (CONT'D)

Stop that.

She stops.

MITHRADATES

The water is not safe, best to stay out of it.

She stares down at him.

MITHRADATES (CONT'D)

Unicorns don't belong here, your beauty will rot in this swamp. Go home.

Anatolia blinks. He smirks.

ANATOLIA

You think I'm beautiful?

MITHRADATES

Compared to me...

She looks at herself and frowns.

MITHRADATES (CONT'D)

Yes.

Anatolia jumps up, startling her.

ANATOLIA

You are beautiful.

She laughs, and Anatolia smiles at her.

MITHRADATES

Don't be daft.

Anatolia shakes his head.

ANATOLIA

I'm telling the truth, if I could have
you forever I would.

Anatolia stares at her in awe. Mithradates stares at him for a moment and looks away, her ears folding backwards. She moves towards the water.

MITHRADATES

Go home unicorn, it is getting dark.

Anatolia looks up at dark trees that hide the sky.

ANATOLIA

I will come see you again, here
tomorrow.

Anatolia excitedly leaps on logs away from her. Mithradates snorts.

MITHRADATES

Maybe I will and maybe I won't.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Anatolia finds Mithradates at the grass bed.

QUICK CUTS:

- He excitedly jumps around her and she gives a gentle smile.
- Mithradates leaps out of the water very high and gracefully dives back down. Anatolia stomps his hooves, cheering.
- She smiles as he leaps on the logs away from her again.
- Anatolia returns with a dead bird and proudly offers it to her, she laughs.
- Anatolia races against Mithradates through the swamp, him leaping from log to log and she swimming, jumping and diving from the water.
- Anatolia nuzzles Mithradates and leaves her.
- Mithradates rushes to greet Anatolia with a nuzzle.

END MONTAGE:

Anatolia lies on the grass bed whereas Mithradates lies in the water next to Anatolia.

ANATOLIA
How long have you been here alone?

MITHRADATES
Since I was born.

Anatolia abruptly jumps up, startling Mithradates.

ANATOLIA
Please come with me.

Mithradates sighs, her ears folding back.

MITHRADATES
I can't leave, without water I'll die.

Anatolia shakes his head.

ANATOLIA
If you didn't need water, would you come with me and my family?

MITHRADATES
Where would we go?

ANATOLIA
Wherever we want.

Mithradates gives a sad smile.

MITHRADATES
I would love that.

Anatolia smiles confidently.

ANATOLIA
Follow me to the edge of the swamp.

EXT. MARSH - AFTERNOON

Anatolia jumps on a log just on the edge of the swamp and the marsh. Mithradates marches through the water after him.

ANATOLIA
My family is over there.

MITHRADATES

I can't continue, there is not enough water there.

ANATOLIA

You said that you need water to survive right?

MITHRADATES

That is correct.

Anatalia whistles and his family quickly responds and trots over to him. Neocaesarea looks at the pair confused.

AMASYA

Who is this mare Anatolia?

ANATOLIA

She was all alone in the swamp, I want her to come with us but she needs to be in water.

NEOCAESAREA

Very well.

Sinope and Trabzon watch attentively as Anatolia, Neocaesarea and Amasya's horns glow, magically forcing the water by Mithradates's feet to rise and form a water bubble with Mithradates inside. Mithradates is shocked as she is surrounded by water.

AMASYA

This will allow you to travel with us from now on.

Neocaesarea smiles and trots away with Amasya by his side and Sinope and Trabzon following closely behind them.

ANATOLIA

Come on.

Anatolia trots through the marsh, watching Mithradates as she very slowly steps out of the swamp and into the marsh. She looks around, still shocked.

ANATOLIA (CONT'D)

Come on, let's go.

Mithradates trots over to Anatolia, out of the swamp and by his side. She smiles wide as she briefly pops her head out the water to nuzzle Anatolia.